





FACT SHEET



What is a Superfund Site?

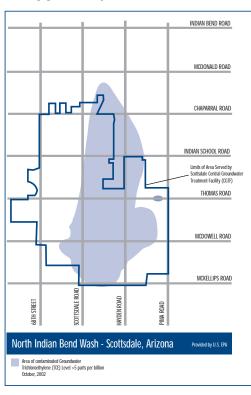
The federal Superfund law was created to provide funding and regulatory authority for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) study and cleanup of contaminated sites throughout the country. According to the EPA, there are 7 federal Superfund sites, including Scottsdale's North Indian Bend Wash (NIBW) site, in the Phoenix metro area.

Who pays to clean up a Superfund site?

In short, Superfund policy is to "let the polluter pay." In the case of the NIBW Superfund site, this refers to the three companies deemed potentially responsible for the contamination - Motorola, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline (formerly SmithKline Beecham) and SMI Holding LLC (formerly Siemens).

Where is the NIBW Superfund Site?

The site is designated by the EPA as the area over the plume of contamination, as indicated in the map provided by the EPA.



What is the history of the NIBW Superfund Site?

In 1981, trace amounts of industrial chemicals, primarily trichloroethylene (TCE), were found in two of Scottsdale's drinking water wells. The affected wells were immediately shut down. TCE is a colorless liquid which is used as a solvent for cleaning metal parts. The EPA identified the companies as potentially causing the contamination and determined that a long-term cleanup effort would be required.

What are the key entities involved in the NIBW Superfund Site?

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which identifies and monitors the contamination plume; allocates responsibility to those potentially causing the contamination; establishes a cleanup remedy; and directs the cleanup of the site.
- The State of Arizona Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), which oversees groundwater quality, and Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), which is responsible for managing water rights.
- The participating companies -Motorola, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline and SMI Holding LLC - which have been designated by the EPA as potentially causing the contamination. These companies are responsible for costs associated with the cleanup.
- The City of Scottsdale, the drinking water provider, which operates the NIBW Groundwater Treatment Facility and ensures the water produced by the plant, meets or surpasses all federal and state standards for safe and healthful drinking water.

How long will the Superfund clean-up activities take?

It has been estimated that the clean-up will take 30-50 years. However, large parts of the ground-water plume clean-up should be completed before that time.

What is the NIBW Groundwater Treatment Facility?

The North Indian Bend Wash Groundwater Treatment Facility is owned and operated by the City of Scottsdale. The plant, located at Pima and Thomas roads, was built by the participating companies. The plant treats water pumped from four groundwater wells that contain TCE. The water is treated to federal and state drinking water standards, under the oversight of the EPA in cooperation with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

How does the NIBW Groundwater Treatment Facility work?

The treatment facility uses a proven process that "strips" the water of contaminants by mixing it with air. Water pumped from the four wells filters down through three treatment columns. As the water and air mix, the contaminants attach themselves to the air. The treated water is then moved to a reservoir for final treatment before it is delivered to the City of Scottsdale drinking water system. The water in the reservoir is combined with other treated water source(s) to meet customer demand. The air used in the treatment process is passed through activated carbon filters to remove the contaminants before it is released.

How do you know the water from the NIBW Groundwater Treatment Facility is safe?

All water provided by the City of Scottsdale consistently meets or surpasses federal and state drinking water standards. These standards are conservatively set to protect the public against substances that may be harmful to humans if consumed for long periods of time. The City of Scottsdale operates the NIBW Groundwater Treatment Facility above and beyond normal operating procedures approved by the EPA and ADEQ. The facility removes TCE from the water to a non-detect level (less than 0.5 parts per billion) which is far below the standard of 5 parts per billion. For information on the quality of any water served by the City of Scottsdale, see the latest Consumer Confidence Report at www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov/water/quality.pdf or call (480) 312-8732 for a copy.

How do I find out if the water I'm being served is from the Groundwater Treatment Facility?

The map which shows the plume, also indicates an outline of the NIBW Groundwater Treatment Facility service area. Please note that these boundaries change slightly based on seasonal water demands.

GROUNDWATER TREATMENT FACILITY GLEANING PROCESS Treatment Facility Air containing TCE NIBW Treated Water Scottsdale Well 74 Scottsdale's Reservoir Drinking Water System

If my property is within the Superfund site, do I need to disclose that fact when selling my home?

Yes. Whether disclosure is made by the seller or a real estate agent, the Superfund designation should be disclosed at the first discussion about the property. This will avoid any last-minute questions which could complicate the transaction.

How have property values been affected within the NIBW Superfund site?

The City of Scottsdale commissioned an independent appraisal company to conduct two property value studies in 1992 and 1995 to assess whether property values had been impacted by being within the NIBW Superfund site. Both studies showed that the Superfund designation had no effect on property values. Copies of both studies are available by calling the City of Scottsdale Environmental Planning and Design Office Hotline (480) 312-7899. Since the studies were done, property values have remained steady, and in many cases appreciated significantly, within the Superfund area.

If you have questions about the NIBW Superfund program or cleanup activities, call:

- Chris Whitmer, City of Scottsdale, Water Resources, (480) 312-8739
- City of Scottsdale Environmental Hotline: (480) 312-7899
- Matt Jefferson, EPA NIBW Project Manager, (415) 972-3272
- Bill DePaul, ADEQ NIBW Project Manager, (602) 771-4654 or outside Phoenix call (800) 234-5677, ext. 4654.

You can also visit the EPA Region IX Web site: http://www.epa.gov/region09/

or the ADEQ Web site: www.adeq.state.az.us/environ/waste/sps/ phxsites.html#ibwna.